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Students of Bryn Mawr College

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ASN offers free, anonymous AIDS testing

by Alice Towey

In an effort to encourage members of the community to get tested, AIDS Service Network will be offering free, anonymous AIDS testing on April 21. About 42 time slots are available for interested students, running from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. ASN has chartered DECAN (Delaware County AIDS Network) to run the tests.

Although the Health Center does perform AIDS tests, it is in many ways different from the procedure that DECAN uses. Firstly, the Health Center charges $40 to run a test, a price that is often prohibitive for many college students. Further, Health Center testing is confidential rather than anonymous. ASN member Asia Russell explained the difference between confidential and anonymous testing. The former offers less privacy; consequently, fewer people are willing to take advantage of it. Russell points out, "people who don’t know might be positive, but are afraid to get tested."

Confidential testing involves giving one’s name and other information, under the assumption that the test results will be kept secret. However, the results are kept on medical records, where insurance companies and the government can have access to them. When this information is released, even to government agencies, the effects can damage people's lives. HIV positive people often suffer prejudice “because of the politics surrounding the disease.” Anonymous testing removes these obstacles by allowing people to be tested without giving their names. They can assume an alias, or simply be identified by a number. These results can not be made public in any way.

DECAN, the group which will be running the test on campus, offers many services besides testing. Highly concerned with education, they train Peer educators and give presentations to schools, businesses and other interested groups. Also, DECAN stocks relief supplies for AIDS victims.

The test itself takes about twenty minutes. By law, patients must receive special counseling both before and after the test. DECAN will provide these services to all patients. The blood is run through the Eliza antibody test, which checks for the presence of antibodies rather than the virus itself. If the preliminary test comes out positive, testers conduct the Eliza test twice more and then run a Western Blot test for confirmation. The entire procedure is 99 percent accurate. Unfortunately, the test can only determine the presence of antibodies; and since antibodies take time to form, there is a window period of about six months after the virus is contracted when the victim shows no signs of illness and may test negative.

Interested students should contact Marisa Cuptarak, at 526-5791, to sign up for a time slot. She asks that potential patients not give their names. Testing will be conducted at the Health Center for convenience; however, Cuptarak stresses that the actual test is not connected to the Health Center in any way. Results will be available May 5, and must be picked up in person. On site counseling will accompany all results.

ASN hopes that this testing will encourage students to get tested. Says Cuptarak, “ASN urges everyone to get tested if they feel they are at risk.”
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: The College News is a feminist newsjournal which seeks to provide a forum for the students, faculty, administration, and staff of Bryn Mawr. We welcome ideas and submissions from all members of the community, as well as from outside groups and individuals whose purpose or functions are connected to those of the College. Each article represents the views of its author, not necessarily those of the paper.
Getting involved to help farm workers and others

by Jessica Shearer

If you signed up and did not go to the Rally for Women's Lives on the Ninth, please consider contributing a few of the dollars you had offered to pay for the two buses. Several people signed up but could not make the rally. We counted on full buses and now owe $250 beyond what sponsoring organizations (CAX, Mojave, BMC Greens, ASA, CHANGE, the Office for Institutional Diversity) offered and what rally goers contributed. If you are interested please contact Jessica Shearer at X7501 or jshearer.

While sponsoring organizations (CAX, Rally for Women's Lives on the Ninth, The College News Page 3) were instrumental in the event, many of us are aware of the United Farm Workers' sponsored grape boycott (supported by BMC Greens, which remains in effect to protest the use of dangerous pesticides, I suspect that few are aware of the CAX, Campuses and the need for respect for farm workers all over the country. (New York, California, Florida, Texas, Louisiana, Illinois and others.) A few of the CAX organizations (especially in New York and Los Angeles), food, and a small ($40 a week) subsidized room are available for Spanish speaking people are different in each location. To obtain an application call (805) 822-5571. If you are a graduating senior and interested in doing this work you may be eligible for a well paid position with The Organizing Institute. The Organizing Institute trains people to take an activist role in this boycott considering hundreds of protesters in Greenwich Connecticut on May 1 as they pay a visit to the headquarters of U.S. Tobacco. It looks like we have at least one driver going to this event, de- spite it falling in the middle of finals. If you are interested please contact Jessica at X7501.

To take an activist role in this boycott consider joining hundreds of protesters in Greenwich Connecticut on May 1, as they pay a visit to the headquarters of U.S. Tobacco. It looks like we have at least one driver going to this event, despite it falling in the middle of finals. If you are interested please contact Jessica at X7501. If you would like to do more to help farm and other workers demand fair wages and benefits there are exciting opportunities in these fields for both undrclasswomen and graduating seniors. The United Farm Workers are currently accepting applications to work at one of their many locations across the country (New York, California, Florida, Texas, Louisiana, Illinois and others). A few of the CAX organizations (especially in New York and Los Angeles) food, and a small ($40 a week) subsidized room are available for English speaking people are different in each location. To obtain an application call (805) 822-5571. If you are a graduating senior and interested in doing this work you may be eligible for a well paid position with The Organizing Institute. The Organizing Institute trains people to take an activist role in this boycott considering hundreds of protesters in Greenwich Connecticut on May 1 as they pay a visit to the headquarters of U.S. Tobacco. It looks like we have at least one driver going to this event, despite it falling in the middle of finals. If you are interested please contact Jessica at X7501.

Elena's Opinion This Week...

'Reality Bites' and other good flicks

by Elena McFadden

Reality Bites: The only way you're going to enjoy this movie is if you look at every single character and really talk about why you think they are the way they are. If you watch it with the following in mind you will laugh, you'll cry, it will be worth your while.

Reality Bites is not the movie of our generation. It's really even a stretch to say it's about our generation at all. Expect any work to accurately characterize millions of people in few com- posites, and you'll be disappointed. Even The Graduate couldn't do it, and, of course we all know Dustin Hoffman is God. Reality Bites had some good social commentary: the treatment of the "gay issue" (I in 4 aren't all that bad, considering black women started as minor token characters thirty years ago and hey, look how far they've come in the popula- r media); the treatment of the "class issue" was excellent pointing out that the University System may not be the great equalizer we wish it were, stu- dents on financial aid face very differ- ent educational experiences even when attending the same institution not to mention, (yes, you know I'm laugh- ing) But I'm serious! What Reality Bites lacked in order to earn this title was that it didn't fully develop any one character's complete post-college life story, so don't get any de- pth of character as a result. In this one though, you feel Tommy Boy's pain, but not his joy. And, if you know what I mean, this is pretty downright hilarious. Tired but I guess you'll just have to see it to believe me.
Let's heal intolerant rifts at BMC

To the Editors:

I have seen a disturbing trend towards intolerance lately on campus. I'm not sure whether it is merely that I have had several incidents, and that I have been more sensitized to them due to other people's talking about the incidents they experienced, but I am disturbed nonetheless.

I'm not sure what I can tell other people to do about this, but I'd like to express my concern. Several recent articles have expressed concern over the stigmatization of Christians and Republicans, and people at the Pride Week Speak Out discussed homophobic and racist incidents in their lives here. Sometimes I feel like science majors look down on humanities majors, and vice versa; and undergraduates dislike post-bacs. Everyone seems to have found someone they can complain about.

I know that there are people who are not acting out of mean-spirited motives, and that they are, in fact, seriously interested in making this an accepting place for everyone. Or I would assume that people are honest in their desire for community.

What is it that keeps driving everyone further and further apart? And what can we do to heal the divisions? I'm not sure what to do, but I think it would help if people began to examine what they said and did, and the attitudes they hold. I don't want to be preachy, and I'm probably just as guilty of this as anyone else, but I think that we will lose a lot of the value of Bryn Mawr if we are unable to come together and heal these rifts.

Sincerely,
Julia Alexander, '96

Previous letter to editors concerning midnight ritual provokes rebuttle

If it was "class action" that opened the doors for many of the groups that are now on the campus, it was "class action" that allowed many people to go as far as they have. It is "class action" that will continue to fight for the people who do not yet have the knowledge to fight for themselves and as long as there are "minority groups" on this campus, "class action" will always have a place here.

I was unsure as to whether she was inferring from Ms. Brown's claims, my recounting of this incident was spontaneous and totally unplanned. It was a midnight ritual that allowed many people to go as far as they have. It is "class action" that will continue to fight for the people who do not yet have the knowledge to fight for themselves and as long as there are "minority groups" on this campus, "class action" will always have a place here.

Such conversations are not used as a way to beg for some kind of recognition but as a way for us all to recognize our differences and to see how we can all work together by pooling our various resources.

Few persons on this campus feel "the need to affiliate [solely] on a socio-economic basis" because the honor code protects us from having others know about our economic status. Such an affiliation, therefore, becomes impossible. Also, since the beginning of Ms. Brown's letter dealt mainly with race and creed, I believe that she is actually inferring that one's socio-economic status is based on one's race. If so, not only is she making a sweeping generalization, but one who tries to form affiliations based on this criterion would always have a place here. Such conversations are not used as a way to beg for some kind of recognition but as a way for us all to recognize our differences and to see how we can all work together by pooling our various resources.

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Shocked about BMC response to Villanova "culture shock"

To the Editors:

I am writing in response to the article published in the April 4th issue of The College News, "Feminist Theology: Villanova Culture Shock." When I first read this article, I laughed all the way through it, but as it set with me over the next couple of days, I became rather annoyed, and a bit offended. I laughed mostly because as an alumna of Villanova who is now a Bryn Mawr graduate student in the School of Social Work and Social Research, I am intimately aware of the differences inherent in both schools and the stereotypes and judgements both student bodies hold about each other. I became angry by the article because the author did not speak of my experience at Villanova, and her judgements about the students and their interests seemed to be insensitive and a bit unwarranted given her method of observation and research. In addition, I was disappointed to discover that although Bryn Mawr students try to be open-minded and respecting of diversity, even they cannot resist labeling and stereotyping others who may be different from them.

I would expect a Bryn Mawr student journalist to base her assumptions and judgements on fact-finding methods rather than blind assumptions. The author herself noted that she went to the lecture with preexisting judgements about Villanova and its students, but she never tried to test these notions by speaking to any of the students at the lecture (believe it or not...I don't even assure you). I bet for as many students who were totally uninterested in the lecture and who were forced to go by their professors, there were an equal amount of students who were very interested in the subject matter and went on their own accord.

I am quite aware of the fact that Villanova is not known as being a bastion of diversity, open-mindedness, or for having a "serious" academically focused or social conscious student body. However, my experience at the University was very much the opposite. Although it took me a while, I found a great community that not only supported my feminism, spirituality, and interest in social change, but also helped me understand and develop these important aspects of myself. Members of my community included students, professors and administrators, challenges to my assumptions, and respect for diversity, even they cannot recognize my prejudices, and to test time-honored traditions and authorities much like feminist theologians today are doing with such things as the Bible and institutionalized patriarchal religions.

The best kept secret about Villanova is that it has a unique history unlike places like Campus Ministry, the Center for Peace and Justice Education, the Women's Studies Department, and student activism and organizations on campus, the supportive and lifegiving "community" that the author seemed to wish for, exists. It is the presence of such a community that serves to blow the popular Villanova stereotypes mentioned in the lecture "stereo types, homophobes, and unapologetic sexist's" out of the water.

My overall aim in writing this letter is not to give a treatise on the positive aspects of Villanova, but to provide some suggestions to present and future Bryn Mawr journalists on how to make the most of Villanova's community. One, always question popular stereotypes with research that is value-based and fact-finding—for you just might offend and lose a reader who is relying on uncheckered assumptions rooted in age-old Bryn Mawr vs. Villanova prejudices.

Sincerely,

Jessica Shearer '98

Feeling wary yet optimistic about diversity

By Hilary Barth

Since I came to Bryn Mawr, my faith in the sincerity of those who advocate "diversity" and "tolerance" has been seriously shaken. As a freshman, although I differed ideologically from most other students, I trusted that they truly did believe in the values they claimed to. I assumed that tolerance applied to everyone, I assumed that diversity still referred to a state of difference or multiforicity. Soon, though, I found that tolerance and sensitivity were privileges reserved for the local majority. Most of my attempts to enter political discussions were met with unpleasant jokes or open hostility. A difference of opinion on my part, however mildly expressed, often seemed to provoke personal insults, even name-calling. Arguments always ended conveniently with some sort of "What can you expect from one of you" remark, people saw that this strategy found them instant allies in anyone nearby. At times my beliefs automatons were made into "callous" or "uncaring" at best, and "racist" or "evil" at worst. I don't mean that people didn't try to test these notions by speaking to me, all of this was said upon my outing as a GOP member.

This sort of thing gets tiresome quickly. I'm not politically dedicated enough to prove such treatment for the sake of a few moments' satisfaction. I wish I didn't have to engage in this situation every time, but the situation hasn't improved. I've become more open about my political status, but I avoid discussing anything very specific. I feel obligated to defend myself and to prove that I'm not what I'm accused of being. I've actually found myself counterfeiting charges of antigay sentiment by pointing out that I lived with three lesbians over the summer; at this my accuser sank back into her chair looking a bit deflated. But what if I didn't happen to have any non-white or non-student friends? Or if I were thicker skinned and better able to resist my defensive urges and allow people to think whatever they liked about my prejudices? I don't enjoy feeling forced to use my friends as shields. I don't want to be in an environment that asks me either to be silent or to enter the rudeness of others.

I remember a woman asking me incredulously, "Are you religious? Are you pro-life?" I'm neither, I just don't discuss it, and say yes. At that moment it seemed that by turning the woman's anger from myself, I'd only be turning it towards others that do fit those categories. I think we've all heard people making derogatory remarks about Christians around campus, remarks that would never be thought acceptable if they targeted ethnic groups, or women, or a number of other religions. Isn't this strikingly inconsistent? Why are Christians and Republicans fair game?

According to what I've heard lately, Mawrters are far better at tolerating opposing viewpoints than students at many other schools. Overall I'm still optimistic about the good intentions of everyone, and there are plenty of people that have reacted very politically (if not enthusiastically) when it's come out that I'm politically conservative. Maybe things are changing...but then, I didn't know Dinesh D'Souza was going to come up and it's come out, although it would be impossible to miss the fact that Suzie Bright will speak this weekend. Still, the recent College News editorial was a refreshing touch and I think my long lost fresh optimism might just be returning.
Filmmaker Cheryl Dunye would like your help

by Julia Alexander

Cheryl Dunye, a Philadelphia black lesbian filmmaker gave a talk and showed several of her short films in Thomas 110. She was here as the final Pride Week speaker, and she finished things up in good form.

Despite the casualness of the picture of her on the posters announcing the talk, I was somewhat afraid that a "black lesbian filmmaker" might be a little serious and dry for my tastes. However, she turned out to be both amusing and interesting to watch.

She began the talk by explaining that she had found few films about the black lesbian experience, and she felt that women needed to make their voices heard. She didn't want to do all of the boring, ultra-serious movies of which other lesbian filmmakers seem to be so fond, though. Nope, she wanted to make films that would speak to all of our experiences and bring people together.

She started making films as a graduate student at Temple, so she was using a video camera. She pointed out that this cut down on her operating costs, and allowed her to feel comfortable with experimenting. She roped all of her friends into helping her, and likened this to an "Our Gang" sort of effort. She said that they worked with few scripts or directions, and explained that this offered up a freedom and spontaneity often lacking in mainstream films.

The films themselves were both amusing and familiar. She Don't Fade was about a woman who met another woman, began a relationship with her, and then saw another woman, dumped the first, and began another relationship. The action was sort of sparse, but it got pushed along by the actresses who explained what was going on, and why they were acting as they were. It was refreshing to see people who could laugh at themselves and their foibles.

Even funnier was The Potluck and the Passion, about a group of friends and acquaintances who gathered to have a potluck. I guess the main reason I found it so amusing was that it seemed both familiar and ludicrous (it was the sort of potluck where one person brought Jell-O salad, another brought fried chicken made with an "old family recipe," another couple brought tofu quiche, and then a pair of people—who were very late—ended up stopping at KFC for their contribution). Dunye showed several other films, none of them more serious, but all of them seeming like something a person I knew could have written. She spoke about the feature length film on which she is working, and invited anyone who was interested to sign a list so that they can help out this summer if they're going to be in this area.

Student questions lead discussion at Susie Bright lecture

by Rachel Solis

When Susie Bright lectured on Sunday, April 9, in Thomas Great Hall, she had broccoli, which meant that she was a bit hoarse and wasn't quite up to her usual energy level. She began the talk by passing out index cards, on which we were supposed to answer seven questions: what gender are you; do you enjoy masturbating; do you enjoy orgasms; have you ever had sex with another person; do you like boys or girls (her word choice, which of course was pointed out as politically incorrect) or both; on a scale of one to ten how would you rate your sex life; and what question would you most like to hear answered. She plans to compile the first six questions and send them back to Bryn Mawr (so hold your breath for our mini-Kinsky report), and she used the last questions as a guide for the rest of her talk. She answered several of the written questions and replied to whatever comments people made (which were very few—at the end she called us a very quiet but extremely sensitive audience). Most of her talk centered on a couple main themes: Sex is fun. If you know your own body and keep an open mind, it's more fun.

I enjoyed the talk. It was a lot of fun and somewhat informative, and, although I didn't agree with everything she said, I liked her basic message of openness, both with other people and to new ideas. I was rather disappointed that she didn't talk about lesbian safer sex. She'd been asked to speak with the hope that we'd have a safer sex/responsibility aspect of Pride Week (it's all fun and games until someone loses an immune system). She began to bring up the subject when she said that she was often hired under the guise of sex education. She pointed out that most of safer sex education is based on fear, which isn't the most effective method. There's nothing, like being young and horny to make one forget fear for at least a few moments, and so many factors affect a person's outlook on sex that a single factor is of only limited influence. If one wants safer sex to be an intrinsic part of life, then one needs more compelling reasons than just fear of disease. Then she changed the subject and never returned to give us any such reasons. I guess there weren't any questions about it on the index cards.
BMC art gallery
show a must-see

by Elena McFadden

Art Review: Reflections VI April 6 - April 27 Bryn Mawr College Gallery

Michael Yonan's paintings are beautiful. There are twelve of them. They're in Blue, Red and Brown, and yes they need to be capitalized like you do God, when you mean it.

I went to see them on a Saturday afternoon when I was feeling kind of down because the miniature of them in the entrance to the Campus Center reminded me of Stine drawings. What Stine says about body parts and... Michael Yonan says with chairs. He says it with words, too, but not words put together the way that Stine does. Words, instead, pulled apart, the way I feel sometimes. But the fact that there are, all pulled apart and mostly incomprehensible and not making sense, and yet all embedded in so much beauty reminds me that maybe, just maybe, I am too.

He says it with leaves, too, and bridges and flowers and trees, and tape. (Don't mention Stine or I'll be completely un-talented. I tried to tell you enough to make sure you understand it's not words put together the way that Stine says, it's crunch, but this is forever, these paintings will live in your head and make you happy, forever. These were my favorites, like I'd tell you about good friends, hoping though that when we parted ways, we'd all walk away bringing them for an entirely different set of absolutely beautifully reasonable than I do. Then there's the tree (enough too, and the bridge, and the chairs, I loved all the chairs, because children are cruel. "I'm sure that's not accurate, but it's what I remember."

I'm writing this review as a public service announcement. There is a new book coming out. Call your parents RIGHT now and tell them absolutely under no circumstances are they to buy it for you. Tell them to spread the word like wildfire. The title is Jobsmart for Twentysomethings. Tell them to tell their friends to spread the word. Everyone knows of someone or other who needs to get a job. The rest of it, sadly enough, is schlock.

What it will tell you is: go intern at a consulting firm. Intern, Intern, Intern, What it will tell you is: go intern at a consulting firm (whatever that really means) If you happen to be the one person out there who for the past four years has been dying to get a job at a consulting firm whatever that really means and haven't yet gone and interned at one, and you had the financial resources to have done so, then I take it all back, go buy this book.

What it will tell you is: go intern at a consulting firm. Intern, Intern, Intern, intern, Intern, Intern, Explore, Explore, Explore.

Sell textbooks for cash

May 8 thru May 12
10:00-4:00 pm

At the Bryn Mawr College Bookshop

We will be buying textbooks back both for the Bookshop (Fall 1995 Semester) and for MBS (a used book company). Books which we buy for the Bookshop will be bought at half the current retail value. Books going to MBS will be bought at national wholesale prices. If you have any questions, please stop by and speak to Fred.
by Julia Alexander

Ah, spring. The season of hay fever, finals, looking for jobs—and, of course, crushes. Spring is the season when you remember, that season when a young girl's fancy turns to... love.

Dear...

Do you like me?

Yes

Maybe.

She was my first real crush. I'm one of those people who made it all the way through high school without ever getting a crush on anyone. I just don't see anything I could recognize as such. (It's a marvelous way of artfully hiding your infatuation, and that I would never be so silly as to spend my time mooning after someone. I teased my friends with abandon, but it was also amazing.

I was also amazingly attractive. (Well, okay, I'm a little biased here.) We spent time together, and the more I knew her, the more I liked her.

But it was a crush, and it was my first one. I couldn't quite move myself to tell her about it, since I couldn't stand to be rejected. Ooh, especially because she would be so nice about it. Also because I did like her platonically as well, and I figured it was better to have a good friend on whom I had a massive—but unfilled—crush than it was to have an acquaintance around whom I felt uncomfortable, because I had made a fool of myself in front of her.

The problem was that I couldn't seem to make the crush go away. Probably part of it, was that it's sort of fun to have a crush. But part of it was because she's so attractive. If I didn't see her for a while, I'd sort of lose some of the intensity, but as soon as I saw her, it was back, full force.

By the following semester, my friends were disgusted with me, since I refused to do anything about the crush. And, well, I also sort of let it degenerate to the middle school level.

Remember, I missed out on having crushes for all of middle school level. So I guess I had to hit that stage before I could go on to more mature ways of interacting with people. I started out by asking everyone I knew whether they thought I liked her. No one seemed to know.

Dear Ms. Hank,

I keep forgetting things. I'll go in to town to run some errands and then won't be able to remember what I wanted to do.

Writing things down doesn't seem to help, since I forget to look at the list. And sometimes I can't see what I wanted to do if I were to look at the list.

There is one easy solution that will have me running errands and not forget the important things, such as going to class on time. I can do if I were to act on the crush. And I can't stop myself from acting on things, because I'm so busy.

After a while I realized that I was feeling pressed for time by the people. I would find myself staring at her all through class, noticing the way that her hair fell onto her shoulders, and admiring the way that her eyes crinkled in the corners when she laughed. Needless to say, I can't stop acting on things, and what was going on in class that semester.

I began to change habits to be the sort of person she was more likely to spend time with. I found myself saving the notes she sent me, and paying attention to people on whom they had crushes. It was when my friends were talking about people on whom they had crushes that I realized what was happening to me. Admitting it to myself made things much, much worse.

Once my brain had a concrete reason for remembering, as I remember.

Dearest Ms. Hank,

I'm sure it must be so hard to see a year ending, but I'm afraid that I won't get to see all of these wonderful people again for a while! They're open Mon.-Thurs. 11-11; Fri.-Sat. 11-midnight; Sun. noon-10.

Pizza Palace: 527-2292. This is the closest one to Bryn Mawr, and the pizza is decent. I think the delivery charge is $1. Their menu assures me that they deliver all day, and they're open Mon.-Thurs. 11-midnight; Fri.-Sat. 11-1 a.m.; Sun. 1-11.

Conestoga Style Pizza: 527-1241/42. What, I wonder, is "Conestoga Style!?" Anyway, this is cheap pizza, and they have a student discount as well. Although the menu says the discount ends on the 31st (April), The food is not great, and I can't remember the delivery charge. They deliver from 5 p.m.-midnight on weeknights, and until 1 on Friday and Saturday.

Campus Corner: 527-3066. This is one of the better cheap pizza places, and they will also bring ice cream, salads, and all of the other usual order-out kinds of food. I don't mind the delivery charge as well, and they're pretty quick (well, about half an hour).

Skeeter's: 469-8911. This is our friendly neighborhood pizza place. They run it out of Havertford, and so they're familiar with Bryn Mawr dorms and all of that. This is the only place I know of that will take checks for your order, and the pizza is pretty cheap. One warning; I could swear that I've seen them delivering via Blue Bus, so it might take a while for them to show up if there's no one working with a car.

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There is one easy solution that will have me running errands and not forget the important things, such as going to class on time. I can do if I were to act on the crush. And I can't stop myself from acting on things, because I'm so busy.

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